

Message Text

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TAGS: EGEN, SENV, NO
SUBJ: NORWEGIAN REQUEST FOR EXHCHANGE PROGRAM WITH INTERIOR DEPART-
MENT

1. IN A LETTER TO THE AMBASSADOR, NORWAY'S ENVIRONMENT MINISTER, GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND, HAS ASKED IF THE US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A MEMBER OF HER STAFF FOR A ONE-YEAR EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOCUSSED ON US FEDERAL MATURE CONSERVATION POLICY AND PROGRAMS. IN ORDER TO PERMIT PARALLEL PART-TIME UNIVERSITY STUDY, THE MINISTER ASKED THAT IF POSSIBLE THE PROGRAM BE ARRANGED TO BEGIN IN JANUARY 1979. SALARY AND OTHER EXPENSES OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM WOULD BE BORNE BY THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT.

2. THE OFFICIAL PROPOSED FOR THE EXCHANGE IS THE HEAD OF THE NORWEGIAN ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY'S DIVISION OF NATURE CONSERVATION, JAN ABRAHAMSON. ABRAHAMSON WAS BORN [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 12 DEC 2014], IS MARRIED WITH TWO CHILDREN AND HOLDS A M.SC. FROM OSLO UNIVERSITY (FRESHWATER ECOLOGY). ABRAHAMSEN SEEKS AN "ASSIGNMENT" EITHER TO NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HEAD-QUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, DC, OR TO A REGIONAL OFFICE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ROUGHLY PARALLEL TO NORWAY'S SUCH AS SEATTLE OR SAN FRANCISCO. IN THE FORMER CASE, HE WOULD HOPE AT LEAST TO VISIT APPROPRIATE REGIONAL OFFICES. HE WOULD LIKE TO INVOLVE HIMSELF
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DIRECTLY IN ON-GOING WORK TO AS GREAT A DEGREE AS POSSIBLE. HIS ENGLISH IS EXCELLENT; HIS FAMILY WILL ACCOMPANY HIM TO US.

3. SUBJECTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO ABRAHAMSEN INCLUDE:
(A) POLICIES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF LARGER PROTECTED

AREAS REPRESENTATIVE OF VARIOUS NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS. AN ANALYSIS OF BIOGROGRAPHICAL REGIONS HAS JUST BEEN CARRIED OUT IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES AND NORWAY COULD BENEFIT FROM US EXPERIENCE AS IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS WORK IS UNDERTAKEN.

(B) DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR PROTECTED AREAS. THIS FIELD OF WORK HAS ONLY STARTED RECENTLY IN NORWAY, BUT EFFORTS TO FORM AN EFFICIENT SYSTEM FOR ESTABLISHING PROTECTED AREAS HAVE PROVED SUCCESSFUL AND HIGH PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN IN NORWAY TO THE FOLLOW-UP PROCESS.

(C) POLICY DEVELOPMENT FOR SOLVING CONFLICTS BETWEEN NATURE CONSERVATION AND OTHER INTERESTS. (E.E. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS, POWER PRODUCTION, ETC.). THIS INCLUDES REVIEW OF POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE EVALUATION SYSTEMS TO TRADITIONAL ECONOMICAL MEASURED VALUES.

(D) STUDY OF DIFFERENT SYSTEMS FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS AND OTHER RESEARCH PROGRAMS TO ILLUSTRATE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF ACTIVITIES THAT MAY HARM NATURE. THESE QUESTIONS ARE OF SPECIFIC AND PERMANENT INTEREST IN NORWEGIAN NATURE CONSERVATION WORK.

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4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT SEEK THE AGREEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, DC. 20240, TO ABRAHAMSEN'S BEING ACCEPTED FOR A YEAR'S EXCHANGE VISIT AND; IF AGREEABLE, THAT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WORK OUT A COORDINATED PROGRAM WITH THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, NATIONAL HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION SERVICE, AND OTHER INTERIOR DEPARTMENT ELEMENTS AS APPROPRIATE. COPIES OF MINISTER BRUNTLAND'S REQUEST, A MORE DETAILED PROGRAM REQUEST AND A CURRICULUM VITAE ON ABRAHAMSEN POUCHED TO EUR/NE (GRAY) SEPTEMBER 14. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR AN EARLY DECISION AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE SO THAT WE CAN RESPOND PROMPTLY TO MIINISTER BRUNDTLAND. LERNER

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